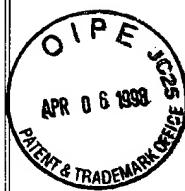


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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
ART UNIT: 1313

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ronald A. Kramer

Examiner: J. Snay

Serial No.: 08/665,491

Group Art Unit: 1313

Filed: 06/18/96

Date: April 3, 1998

For: CONDITIONER, APPLICATOR AND PROCESS THEREFOR

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Sir:

The undersigned hereby certifies that the attached Response to Final Rejection was mailed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, with sufficient first-class postage, no special handling, on April 3, 1998, before 5:00 PM, thereby ensuring that such document(s) will be in the hands of the U.S. Postal Service by the close of business this day. Thus, timely response has been made to the outstanding Office action prior to expiration of the shortened statutory period for the same ending May 17, 1998.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which might be required or credit any overpayment of fees with regard to the attached document(s) to Account No. 08-3150.

Respectfully submitted,

HUDAK & SHUNK CO., L.P.A.

Samuel B. Laferty
Registration No. 31,537

SBL/sms

7 West Bowery Street, Suite 808
Akron, OH 44308-1133
Telephone: (330) 535-2220

ATTORNEY DOCKET: BAND-A
Band-A.com



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO FINAL REJECTION

Sir:

In response to the Rejection of March 17, 1998, applicant responds as follows:

To Examiner
4/10/98
RJW
4/13/98
JAS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 - 12 and 21 - 28 without bias or prejudice as they have been the subject of a restriction requirement and can be the subject matter of another application.

REMARKS

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Liddle in view of Palcher.

Claims 15 - 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Liddle in view of Palcher as applied to claims 13, and 14 above, and further in view of Bright et al.

The Examiner asserts applicant's arguments filed December 12, 1997, were not persuasive. It is still applicant's opinion that hindsight provides the only motivation to combine the two or three references required to reject the